

**Montana Department of Military Affairs
Disaster & Emergency Services Division
State Emergency Coordination Center**

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Situation Report for September 12, 2003 (issued @ 14:00 hrs.)

Wildfires of 2003

Attention * - New information shown in today's report displayed in ***Bold Italics*** type.

I. Background Information:

On 8/07/03, Governor Judy Martz signed Executive Order # 16-03 in which she declared a statewide disaster thereby enabling mobilization of state resources (including the Montana National Guard) should they be needed to help protect the life, health and/or property of Montana's citizens. This declaration supplements Executive Order # 14-03, a statewide emergency declaration issued on 7/18/03. The State Emergency Coordination Center has been activated since 7/18/03.

II. Current Montana Fire Situation:

A. Large Fires

Northern Rockies Preparedness Level = 5

National Preparedness Level = 5

- *Northwest Area Command (Williams-Rhodes) is managing the following large fires:*
 - *Blackfoot Lake Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Mortier) – 29,926 acres, 30% contained, 19 miles E of Kalispell. Transition to Type 1 Incident Management Team (Bennett) will occur 9/13.*
 - *Middle Fork Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 11,851 acres, 5% contained, 5 miles E of West Glacier.*
 - *Wedge Canyon – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Saleen) – 53,315 acres, 87% contained, 42 miles N of Columbia Falls.*
 - *Rampage Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 24,488 acres, 0% contained, 15 miles SE of West Glacier.*
 - *Little Salmon Creek Wildland Fire Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Rath) – 44,350 acres, 0% contained, located 47 miles SE of Kalispell in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.*
 - *Little Salmon Creek Fire Use Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Rath). This 41,700 acre lightning caused Wildland Fire Use complex is located 47 miles SE of Kalispell in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. This complex is being managed to accomplish resource objectives.*
 - *Robert – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 57,570 acres, 60% contained, 8 miles N of Columbia Falls.*
 - *Trapper Creek Complex – 19,150 acres, 45% contained, 45 statute miles NE of Kalispell.*
 - *Crazy Horse – 11,300 acres, 95% contained, 10 miles NE of St. Ignatius.*
- *Fish Creek Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Lohrey) – 36,950 acres, 75% contained, 24 miles W of Missoula.*
- *Cooney Ridge – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Blume) – 25,110 acres, 97% contained, 11 miles E of Florence.*
- *Mineral/Primm – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Broyles) – 25,202 acres, 78% contained, 19 miles NE of Missoula. Transition to Type 2 Incident Management Team (Larsen) will occur 9/13.*
- *Lincoln Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Hoff) – 39,707 acres, 80% contained, 10 miles W of Lincoln.*
- *Beaver Lake Complex – 26,307 acres, 62% contained, 19 miles SW of Missoula.*

- *Clear/Nez Complex – This 11,425 acre lightning caused Wildland Fire Use complex is located 41 miles SW of Lolo in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. This complex is being managed to accomplish resource objectives. Last report unless significant activity occurs.*
- *East Complex – 23,500 acres, 90% contained, 4 miles E of Fishing Bridge Junction, Yellowstone National Park. Last report unless significant activity occurs.*

B. Initial Attack *Minimal initial attack – 7 new fires 4,035 acres*

C. State Forecast For Montana

STATE FORECAST FOR MONTANA
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GREAT FALLS MT
416 AM MDT FRI SEP 12 2003

WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

TODAY - Mostly Cloudy. Isolated Showers And Thunderstorms In The North. Scattered Showers This Morning Then Isolated Showers And Thunderstorms This Afternoon Across The South. Locally Windy. Highs 56 To 66.

TONIGHT - Partly Cloudy. Isolated Evening Showers Near The Continental Divide. Lows 31 To 41.

SATURDAY - Partly Cloudy. Highs 59 To 69.

CENTRAL MONTANA

TODAY - Mostly Cloudy And Breezy. Occasional Showers South... Scattered Showers North...Tapering Off To Scattered Showers This Afternoon. Slight Chance Of Thunderstorms. Highs In The Lower 50s To Lower 60s.

TONIGHT - Mostly Cloudy. Chance Of Rain Showers In The Evening Then Slight Chance Of Rain Showers After Midnight. Lows In The Mid 30s To Lower 40s.

SATURDAY - Partly Cloudy. Slight Chance Of Rain Showers In The Morning. Highs In The Mid 50s To Lower 60s.

SOUTHWEST MONTANA

TODAY - Mostly Cloudy And Breezy. Scattered Showers And Isolated Thunderstorms. Highs In The Mid 40s To Lower 60s.

TONIGHT - Mostly Cloudy. Slight Chance Of Rain And Mountain Snow Showers. Lows In The Mid 20s To Mid 30s.

SATURDAY - Partly Cloudy. Highs In The Upper 40s To Upper 50s.

EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MONTANA

TODAY - Mostly Cloudy With A Chance Of Showers. Highs In The 60s.

TONIGHT - Mostly Cloudy With A Chance Of Showers. Lows In The 30s And 40s.

SATURDAY - Mostly Cloudy With A Chance Of Showers Southeast. Partly Cloudy Elsewhere. Highs In The Mid 50s To Mid 60s.

III. Summary of Actions being taken by Local Government Officials:

The following local jurisdictions have made the following declarations:

Cascade County	Emergency Declaration (Box Canyon/Long Mtn.)	7/15/03
Garfield County	Disaster Declaration (Missouri Breaks)	7/15/03
Beaverhead County	Emergency Resolution (multiple fires)	7/17/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration (Big Creek)	7/20/03
Flathead County	Emergency Declaration (Wedge Canyon)	7/21/03
Sanders County	Resolution (Stage II Fire Restrictions)	7/29/03
Fallon County	Resolution (Stage I Fire Restrictions)	8/04/03
CSKT Flathead	Resolution (Tribal/Forest/Range Closure)	8/04/03
Blaine County	Emergency Declaration (150 acre fire)	8/06/03
Park County	Emergency Declaration (Rough Draw Fire)	8/11/03
Sweet Grass County	Disaster Declaration – (Hobble [Diamond] Fire)	8/12/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Musselshell County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03

Granite County	Disaster Declaration	8/15/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Stillwater County	Emergency Declaration	8/16/03
Sanders County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Lewis and Clark County	Emergency Declaration	8/15/03
Judith Basin County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Missoula County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03
Carbon County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03
Dawson County	Emergency Declaration	8/27/03

The US Small Business Administration has issued a Declaration of Economic Injury Disaster #9W74 for the following counties:

Flathead	Teton	Mineral	Granite
Glacier	Broadwater	Missoula	Park
Lake	Cascade	Pondera	Ravalli
Lewis & Clark	Chouteau	Powell	Stillwater
Lincoln	Jefferson	Toole	Sweet Grass
Sanders	Meagher	Beaverhead	

Declaration of Economic and Injury Disaster #9W74 has been amended to include all counties listed above in the State of Montana as an economic injury disaster area due to the effects of forest fires. Applications for economic injury loans from small businesses located in the counties of Carbon, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Golden Valley, Madison, Silver Bow, Wheatland and Yellowstone may also be filed. The deadline for filing is May 26, 2004.

The declarations and amendments may be found on the web at:
<http://www.discoveringmontana.com/dma/des/presidentialeo.asp>

IV. - Summary of State Activities and Resources Committed:

Status of State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC)

Montana DES is providing support to local governments through the State Emergency Coordination Center in Helena. *The SECC is currently operating at Activation Level III. Level III operations will include a full staff 0800-1700 during weekdays. The Duty Officer will monitor operations during the weekend.*

The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) will continue to monitor conditions and is prepared to provide 24-hour incident support to local governments. After office hours (i.e., 1900-0700) support is available through the DES Duty Officer who may be reached at (406) 841-3911.

V. FEMA Grants:

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grants have been approved for:

- Missouri Breaks Complex
- Wedge Canyon
- Robert
- Hobble
- Cherry Creek
- Fires burning in portions of Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties
- Lincoln Complex
- Flathead County Zone

The Northern Rockies Coordination Center information line has scaled back service hours to 0830 to 1700.

VI. Fire Restrictions, Closures and Evacuations:

For the latest fire restrictions:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/fireseason/2003/MTmain.htm>

For the latest on smoke management and air quality Updates:

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/index.asp>

For the latest closures and evacuations:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations_road_closures

For detailed information on specific fires or priorities:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/detailed_sit.htm

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/mac2003/mac_priorities.doc